

## WE CLAIM:

1. A method, comprising:  
transporting stacks of sheet-shaped print materials in a transport from a location  
misaligned with a reference axis to another location while automatically aligning a  
5 center of a stack thickness with the reference axis.
2. The method of claim 1, comprising aligning the stack of sheet-shaped print  
materials independently of the stack thickness.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the stacks of sheet-shaped print materials are  
unbound.
- 10 4. The method of claim 1, comprising securely moving the stack of sheet-shaped  
print materials from the first location to the second location.
5. The method of claim 1, comprising securely moving the stack of sheet-shaped  
print materials collected at a fixed stop to another processing station.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein at the second location one-half of the thickness  
15 of the stack of sheet-shaped print materials is disposed on one side of the reference  
axis and another one-half of the thickness of the stack of sheet-shaped print materials is  
disposed on another side of the reference axis.
7. The method of claim 1, comprising a carriage in the transport and having a first  
clamping jaw and a second clamping jaw for gripping the stack of sheet-shaped print  
20 material; and  
comprising always centering the carriage between the first clamping jaw and the  
second clamping jaw.
8. The method of claim 1, the device (100) takes the stack of sheet-shaped print  
materials (1) from a collecting device for sheet-shaped print materials.

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9. An apparatus, comprising:  
a transport defining a transport path;  
a carriage carried in the transport and having a first clamping jaw and a second clamping jaw for gripping a stack of sheet-shaped print material;
- 5 a guide along the transport path which guides the carriage from a location wherein the stack of sheet-shaped print material is misaligned with a reference axis to another location wherein a center of a stack thickness is aligned with the reference axis.
10. The device of claim 9, wherein the guide is shaped to guide the carriage from the location wherein the stack of sheet-shaped print material is misaligned with the  
10 reference axis to the another location wherein the center of the stack thickness is aligned with the reference axis.
11. The device of claim 9, wherein the first clamping jaw and second clamping jaw are oriented to clamp the sheet-shaped print materials vertically between the clamping jaws.
- 15 12. The device of claim 9, wherein the first clamping jaw and the second clamping jaw are mutually linked to the carriage by way of a parallelogram.
13. The device of claim 9, wherein the first clamping jaw and the second clamping jaw are mutually linked to the carriage by way of a parallelogram configured to always place the carriage centered between the first clamping jaw and the second clamping  
20 jaw.
14. The device of claim 9, wherein the first and second clamping jaws are mutually linked to the carriage by way of a parallelogram., the transport is open on both sides of the stack of sheet-shaped print materials.
15. The device of claim 9, wherein the first clamping jaw and the second clamping  
25 jaw are mutually linked to the carriage by way of a parallelogram,  
at least one of the clamping jaws being mounted in such that the clamping jaws adapt to stacks of sheet-shaped print materials that do not have uniform thickness.

16. The device of claim 9, comprising a measuring device that measures the stack thickness.

17. The device of claim 9, comprising a protective device that can switch off a clamping movement of the first clamping jaw and the second clamping jaw.

5 18. A method, comprising:

transporting unbound stacks of sheet-shaped print materials in a transport from a location misaligned with a reference axis to another location while automatically aligning a center of a stack thickness with the reference axis,

10 wherein at the second location one-half of the thickness of the stack of sheet-shaped print materials is disposed on one side of the reference axis and another one-half of the thickness of the stack of sheet-shaped print materials is disposed on another side of the reference axis.

19. The method of claim 1, comprising a carriage in the transport and having a first clamping jaw and a second clamping jaw for gripping the stack of sheet-shaped print material; and

15 comprising always centering the carriage between the first clamping jaw and the second clamping jaw.

20. The method of claim 1, the device (100) takes the stack of sheet-shaped print materials (1) from a collecting device for sheet-shaped print materials.